



YAZOO CITY:

Friday, December 30, 1842.

J. A. STEVENS, EDITOR.

For President of the United States in 1844

HENRY CLAY, OF KENTUCKY.

The Last of the Old Year.

The present number of our paper is the last one of the old year. Alas! how swiftly the years pass along, and one after another are buried in oblivion. The things of today will on the morrow be numbered with the things that have been, and scarcely have we become, as it were, reconciled to 1842 when 1843 hurries into birth, ere the knell of the departed year has ceased vibration. It appears but a few days since we entered upon the various duties assigned to us with the coming in of a new year, and now similar duties are close at hand. The year that is dying has been the bearer of death to our midst, and friends that rejoiced with us when it was newly born, cannot mourn with us over its departure. The bell of death has been tolled for them; the melancholy pall of the moss-covered trees hangs drooping o'er their graves; the wild-rose and the thorn springs from the turf that rests upon their dust; time is no more to them; they are portions of eternity. All must mingle, sooner or later, in the same mighty ocean, to which the ever-varying stream of time bears us onward—the ocean of Eternity. Let us then prepare for the duties and vicissitudes of another year with cheerfulness and alacrity, taking the good and the bad it may bring forth with an evenness of temper, for we can form no more idea of the ultimate results of the events of the coming year, than can an old laying hen of the portion she contributes to a Christmas egg-nogg.

The Steamboat Volant.

This packet-boat, her master, and the other officers attached to her, are so well known to our citizens that it were useless in us to say anything in the way of recommending either the boat or officers to our acquaintances and friends. The purport of the present paragraph is to make more generally known than it now seems to be, the fact of the Volant having resumed her position in the Yazoo trade as a packet between this port and Vicksburg, and now is, and has been for near three weeks past, making her regular tri-weekly trips between the two ports, arriving and departing according to the days and hours specified by advertisement on the adjoining page of our paper. To strangers travelling via the Yazoo river, we can safely recommend the Volant for punctuality, and her officers and men as being in every way accommodating; to our neighbors around, it is all-sufficient to say the boat is running.

There has been a sufficient rise in the Yazoo river to give to our landing something of the appearance of business. The steamboat Pathfinder came up last week, being her first trip here this season. There is a vast quantity of cotton stored here, the owners of which are anxiously awaiting a yet further rise of water.

ALMOST A FIRE.—One evening last week, our citizens were alarmed by the hurried ringing of bells, and the cry of "Fire!" The alarm was occasioned by the burning of some six or eight bales of cotton that were lying on the bank of the river immediately in front of Messrs. Bailey & Caldwell's cotton shed. The cotton is supposed to have caught fire from a spark blown from a burning tree on the opposite side of the river. Had it occurred two or three hours later, in all probability three or four large sheds would have been destroyed with many hundreds of bales of cotton.

MILITARY ELECTION.—Captain R. Eaton Keys, of this place, was elected on the 17th inst., Colonel of the 20th Regiment of Mississippi Militia.

It seems to us the editor of the Greenada paper the Weekly Register, might employ his pen much better than by writing articles for the purpose of reducing printer's prices. Terms of advertising have been established by printers throughout the State, and for their mutual benefit should be strictly adhered to. We do not like to see an editor doing his best to make a printer "work for nothing and God himself."

There has within the last two weeks, been a rise of some 6 or 7 feet in the Mississippi river.

An excellent theatrical company under the management of Messrs. Ludlow & Smith are entertaining our neighbors of the Hill City.

The Indian and Ferryman; Or, Crossing a Nation.

At the lower landing a few days since, an amusing incident occurred of which we were a chance spectator.

The remnant of the Choctaw tribe, that now linger with the whites of Mississippi, still cling to their old hunting and roaming habits, and many of them during the winter season encamp near our little city, for the double purpose of selling game and buying whiskey; although a reformation is taking place amongst them, as is evinced from the fact of a very few having been seen in a state of intoxication the present winter.

It chanced while we were at the river on some business, an Indian made his appearance on the opposite bank, having with him two ponies, and hanging from the backs of the two sturdy beasts were the hams and other parts of deer, that had not, as in former days, fell by the unerring arrow of the savage; but the fleet-footed animals had been shot down in their wild and swampy haunts, falling dead in their very tracks; the effect of the more speedy and certain ball of the civilized rifle.

The ferryman noticed the Indian and his ponies on the shore opposite, and naturally enough thought within himself that the Choctaw wished to cross the river for the purpose of disposing of his game. He accordingly called to the Indian, and made signs of crossing, as questioning him whether he would come over or not.

The Indian apparently understood the motions that had been made by the man of the ferry, pointed to his ponies, then to the bank on which we were standing, and gave utterance to the usual "Ugh!"

This ejaculation was received by the ferryman as an acquiescence on the part of the Indian, and he immediately despatched two darkies with the ferry-flat to re-cross with the red man and his traffic.

After the Choctaw and the two ponies had been safely landed on this side of the river, the owner of the ferry-boat, both by words and gestures, requested of the man with the venison to be paid the amount due him for ferriage:—

"You pay me—ferriage:—one pony—four bits;—two ponies—(holding up the four fingers of either hand,)—eight bits. You pay me, Bob-a-sheelah!"

The Indian looked at the person who thus accosted him—then at his ponies and venison—once more at the ferryman—and then his eye wandered towards the bank from which he had just now came. Having apparently arranged matters in his own mind, he again looked full upon the face of the ferryman, and replied,—"Ugh!"

"No money!—I take meat—venison ham,—how much?"

"Ugh!"—him no mine. *Ex-schto!*" And the Indian looked anxiously and pointed hurriedly towards the landing-place on the other side of the Yazoo.

"Ham, four bits;—two hams, eight bits.—I take 'em,—you go!" said the proprietor of the ferry, willing to take meat as pay where money was not to be had.

"Ugh!"—eight bits!—*ex-schto!*" exclaimed the red man, making at the same time impatient signs expressive of a desire to re-cross the river.

The ferryman at length came to the conclusion that the game the Indian had with him belonged to others of a hunting party that were yet on the opposite side, and when they should come to the river and cross it, he would then receive pay for all. Under this impression, he ordered the negroes to re-ferry the Indian and his ponies, which was done. No sooner, however, had the boat regained the shore on our side of the stream, than the Indian driving, one of the ponies into the river, and taking water himself on the back of the other, Choctaw, ponies, and game came gallantly across, and landed once more safe and sound upon the very spot from which they had but a few moments before departed, much to the disappointment and chagrin of the astonished ferryman.

"Ugh!" ejaculated the Indian; then continued, "Crossing me,—no pay!—Money, *ex-schto!*" and leaving the ferryman to make the best of a bad job, he proceeded leisurely up town to dispose of the returns of his powder and lead to the best advantage he could.

A NEW WORK.—"The Life and Exploits of the Duke of Wellington," to be illustrated with sixty magnificent engravings, and a fine full length portrait of the Duke, will compose a double extra of the New World, which will be published on the 17th of next month. This work will be highly interesting and valuable, as the exploits of the Duke of Wellington are associated with some of the most stirring events of Modern History. It will also give a complete history of the Peninsular War. Not one of our readers should fail of procuring this work, as it will blend amusement with instruction. Single copies may be had at 25 cts. each.

The ice on the river above has been broken up by freshets, and the navigation of all the principal streams is now unimpeded.

EVERY YOUTH'S GAZETTE. is the title of a periodical for the young, issued every two weeks from the office of the New World. The matter it usually contains is admirably adapted to the intellect and improvement of children. Parents cannot do better for the cultivation of the young mind than to place "Every Youth's Gazette" in the hands of their children. Price of subscription, \$1 50 a year. The second volume commences on the 1st of January next.

"Boston Notion."—We still continue to receive this truly valuable paper. It is published weekly in quarto form, at \$3 per year, and always made up of sterling matter. It is indeed a genuine Notion.

MR. CLAY.—It was confidentially expected that Mr. Clay would be in the city of New Orleans on Thursday the 22d inst.—Appropriate preparations were making for his reception, and the programme of a procession in honor of the truly great statesman had been published in some of the city prints.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.—The steamboat Star of the West on her downward trip, when a short distance above Liverpool, met with a serious accident in the bursting of one of her boilers. A white man and two blacks were very severely scalded, so badly indeed, that the life of the former as also that of one of the latter, is in great jeopardy. This, we believe, is the first accident of the kind that has happened on the Yazoo river.

We learn from the Picayune that Lieutenant Sol Smith, of the "gallant" 42d, has been measured by a blacksmith in New Orleans, for the purpose of having a sword made to his size, as one ready-made could not be procured in the city of corresponding dimension. The horn he once carried on the stage, at Harrodsburg, Ky., in the face of the Poor Soldier, could he now obtain it, would admirably match the sword. Old Sol must recollect the enormous instrument alluded to.

The Ohio river at Maysville, Ky., is said to have been frozen over in the early part of this month. The winter at the north is spoken of by the various journals of that section of our country as being extremely severe.

GEN. CASS.—The steamship Columbia arrived at Boston from Liverpool, on the morning of the 6th inst., having as passenger on board, our late Minister to France, General Cass. A few hours before Gen. C. left the French capital, he had an interview with King Louis Philippe for the purpose of leaving-taking. The French King expressed much regret at the departure of the General, at the same time assuring him that during his official residence in Paris the relations between them had been such as to give constant satisfaction to his majesty.

On the day previous to the departure of Gen. C., a dinner was given to him by about a hundred American residents in Paris.

Mr. Ledyard, the son-in-law of General Cass, remains at Paris as the Charge d'Affaires.

STEAMBOAT ACCIDENTS.—On the 1st inst., the steamboat American Eagle struck a snag at Island No. 27, in the Mississippi river, and sunk to her guards. Her cargo, consisting principally of tobacco, bagging and rope, is said to be a total loss.

The steamboats Boston and Saratoga are also sunk.

The Rialto, from the Mouth of White River for Little Rock, struck a snag on the 19th ult., and sunk in seven feet water. Boat probably lost, and her cargo much damaged.

The iron steamer, W. W. Fry, on her passage from Montgomery to Mobile, struck a snag at Tate's Shoals in the Alabama river, and sunk to her deck. Her cargo was cotton, and hopes were entertained of saving both the boat and her entire freight.

The steamboat Little Stewart sunk in the Ohio, near Steubenville; her hull having been cut through by ice.

The Ontario was also so much injured by ice when last bound up the Ohio river, that to prevent her sinking she was run on shore a short distance below Wheeling.

The steamer Nashville, from Ounchita for New Orleans, struck a snag on the night of the 15th inst., 25 miles above Harrisonburg, and sunk in ten minutes. She had on board about 650 bales of cotton, the principal part of which it is said will be saved, but in a damaged state. The boat was broken in two,—a total loss.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The latest report of the Cotton Market at Liverpool, Eng., is furnished by the steam packet Columbia. It bears date November 19th, and is as follows:

Cotton was in good demand and full prices were obtained until Wednesday, when the arrival of the Boston steamer, in the afternoon of that day, with accounts confirmatory of the previous liberal estimates of the crop, induced holders to offer their stocks more freely, and the tendency of the market has since been in favor of the buyer, but we cannot make any definite alterations from our quotations of Friday last.

The sales of the week amount to 26,750 bales, of which 2000 American have been taken on speculation.

The prices declared to-day by the Committee of Brokers for fair American are as follows, viz: Bowed 54d, Mobile 54, and Orleans 51 per lb.

We lay before our readers to-day, all the proceedings of both Houses of Congress up to the 9th inst.

CONGRESSIONAL.

We extract the following particulars of the meeting of Congress from the National Intelligencer, of the 6th inst.

Both Houses assembled on Monday, the 5th inst.

In the Senate, the following members were present, to wit: Messrs. Allen, Archer, Bates, Bayard, Benton, Buchanan, Clayton, Conrad, Crafts, Dayton, Evans, Huntington, Kerr, King, Mangum, Merrick, Rives, Sturgeon, Talmadge, Teppan, Wilcox, Williams, Woodbury, Wright—24.

The President waited until half past 12 o'clock, when it being evident that no quorum would be present that day, Mr. Huntington moved that the Senate adjourn, which motion prevailed.

In the House of Representatives, one hundred and eighty-one members answered to their names. The Speaker having announced the presence of a quorum—

Mr. Cushing rose and moved that the usual message be sent to the Senate, informing that body that a quorum of the House had assembled, and that the House was ready to proceed to business.

The motion was agreed to. Mr. Cushing moved that the usual joint resolution be adopted, providing for the appointment of the usual joint committee on the part of the Senate and the House to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of the two Houses had assembled, and that Congress was ready to receive any communication which he might be pleased to make.

Mr. Hopkins suggested that the fact was not yet ascertained that a quorum of the two Houses had assembled. It would be better to ascertain it before adopting the resolution.

Mr. Cushing. It is immaterial. We can pass the resolution.

Mr. Hopkins had no objection, he said. So the resolution was adopted.

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING.

On motion of Mr. Cushing, it was resolved that the daily hour of meeting of this House shall be 12 o'clock, M. until further order.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Everett rose and gave notice that he would to-morrow, or at as early a day as practicable, ask leave to introduce a bill to repeal the act entitled "An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States."

The motion was entered on the journal.

THE TWENTY-FIRST RULE.

Mr. Adams rose and gave notice, that he would, to-morrow, offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the 21st rule for conducting business in this House, in the following words, "No petition, memorial, or resolution, or other paper, praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or any State or Territory, or the slave trade between the States or Territories of the United States in which it now exists, shall be received by this House, or entertained in any way whatever," be, and the same is hereby rescinded.

Mr. Wise said he objected to the reception of the resolution.

The Speaker said that a resolution to repeal a standing rule required one day's notice.

Mr. Wise repeated his objection to the reception.

The Speaker.—The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Adams) merely gives the notice; he does not offer the resolution.

Mr. Wise.—Can that notice be given now? Is it in order?

The Speaker.—Yes.

Mr. Wise.—Does it take precedence of the other orders of the House?

The Speaker.—No.

Mr. W. C. Johnson inquired of the Speaker if the resolution was now before the House, and susceptible of amendment?

The Speaker.—The resolution is not before the House. It is a mere notice of a proposition to amend the rules.

The conversation here ended, and the notice of Mr. Adams, which elicited some demonstrations of merriment, was entered on the journal.

The Speaker here announced the following members as the committee appointed, under the motion of Mr. Cushing, to wait on the President, &c.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, Mr. Tillamash, of Rhode Island, and Mr. Hunt, of New York.

PRAYERS.

On motion of Mr. Briggs, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That two Chaplains, of different denominations, be elected to congress, one by each House, to serve during the present session, who shall interchange weekly.

NEWSPAPERS.

On motion of Mr. Briggs, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the members of this House be furnished, during the present session, with such newspapers as they may respectively direct; the expense for each member not to exceed at the rate of three daily papers per annum.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Briggs, it was Ordered, That the standing committees be appointed according to the standing rules and orders of the House.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Mr. Tillamash offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of instructing the Secretary of State to communicate with the judicial officers of the United States who have had the execution of the bankrupt act, and ascertain from them the number of applications under the act, both voluntary and involuntary; the number of discharges; the point decided under any provision of the act; the opinion of the judges as to any amendment or modifications of the act; and such other information as he may deem necessary to show the effects and operation of the act and that he report to the Senate on the tenth day of the next session.

Mr. Bayard introduced his resolution to rescind the celebrated expunging resolutions, after which the Senate adjourned Monday the 12th inst.

In the House, the resolution of Mr. Adams to rescind the 21st rule, was again, but was not disposed of.

Mr. Wm. Cost Johnson offered a resolution to abolish the "one hour rule," which after some discussion, was laid on the table by a vote of 116 to 70.

The House then adjourned to Monday the 12th.

FROM YUCATAN.

News to the 24th of November was yesterday received here from Campechy, brought by the Spanish brig Tonante, Capt. Barrer. The land and naval Mexican force made combined attack upon the heights surrounding Campechy on the 24th of November, and after a desperate struggle, during which both parties displayed the greatest bravery, the Yucatanese were driven from their strong position. The Mexicans have thus secured great advantages, but their adversaries appear to be in no wise discouraged in consequence.

The day preceding the capture of the heights of Campechy there was a regular engagement between the Mexican fleet and the six gun boats of the Campechanos, in which the former were repulsed with considerable loss.

Desertions from the Mexican forces were frequent, although every possible precaution was taken to prevent them. Among the deserters are several sergeants, corporals, and other minor officers. Great dissatisfaction seems to prevail in the Mexican ranks, but the officers in command continue to prevent an outbreak by a rigid system of discipline. The Mexicans observe great vigilance in enforcing the blockade. Nevertheless, we learn that merchant vessels laden with groceries and provisions continue to steal through the cordon of armed vessels at night, and deposit their cargoes within the city. This continuing the Campechanos cannot, all events, be starved into surrender.

If we may form an opinion, says the editor of the Bee, of the enthusiasm and fidelity of the Yucatanese, in the cause of independence, from their voluntary contributions, we should certainly conclude that Mexico stands but a poor chance of subduing the people. The papers are absolutely crowded with notices of amounts of money and stores of provisions given in aid of Campechy by every citizen. The people of Yucatan are poor and depressed by embarrassed commerce and pecuniary distress, but they do not hesitate to part with a portion of the little all, to assist their compatriots in driving the invaders from their soil. The troops sent from Merida to Campechy were furnished along the road with large quantities of flour, corn, bread, &c., the women in particular providing for their comforts with all possible care.—[Etc. Dec. 9.]

FROM MEXICO.

By way of Havana we have received letters from our Mexican correspondents, of later dates than those brought by the steamer frigate Missouri.

As late as the 23d of November the Mexican Congress was discussing the new project for a Constitution, the former one having been rejected on account of not being sufficiently federal. It is thought the present project will pass after undergoing some slight modification.

Santa Anna was still at Manga de Clavos on the 26th of November, and does not speak of returning to the city of Mexico for the present. In the meantime nothing was done at the capital without first consulting him.

The firing into the Champion at Campechy is mentioned by one of our correspondents. She was afterwards boarded in the war steamer Guadalupe, at Laguna, an eight Mexican passengers, who had come on board at Campechy, were made prisoners. The Champion afterwards went into Tobasco.

A conducta from Mexico arrived at Veracruz on the 28th of November, with \$750,000. The U. S. ship Falmouth was to sail two days after for this port, via Tampico. From the two places it is thought she will bring no less than \$400,000.—Ibid.

FROM TEXAS.

The steamship New York, Capt. Wright, arrived yesterday in thirty hours from Texas. She brought papers of the 3d inst. In the few days that have intervened since the receipt of our previous advices nothing new has transpired. Congress had done nothing nor had a quorum been formed in either house at the last advices from Washington which is temporarily made the seat of government. General Houston had issued his proclamation calling the members to meet there in regular session on the 5th inst.

The accounts from the army are still vague and contradictory. Many of the men have returned, but it is said that the greater part of the force is still in the vicinity of Bexar and determined to proceed.

The drafted troops of Montgomery count are daily retreating from the army, and those who have arrived report, that nearly all the drafted men in camp will return in a week or two. The streams are so high, and the roads so miry that many are unwilling to travel. Several hundred volunteers remain at Bexar who are still desirous to march westward, but are prevented by the inclemency of the season.

Resolved, That the Committee on the